

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, Claims 1-22 are currently amended, and new Claims 23-33 are added. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that Claims 7-8 and 18-19 include allowable subject matter.

Allowable original Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, newly-independent Claim 7 is allowable. Dependent Claim 8 depends from independent Claim 7 and is allowable for the same and other reasons.

Allowable original Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, newly-independent Claim 18 is allowable. Dependent Claim 19 depends from independent Claim 18 and is allowable for the same and other reasons.

Claims 1-6, 9-17 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Forse (US 2,504,014).

Claim 1 recites a device for smoothing articles of clothing having a cuff, comprising: a shirt-shaped inflatable body having a flexible covering and at least one arm portion with an end, wherein the flexible covering is expandable for smoothing the article of clothing; and at least one stiffening member connected to said flexible covering at said end and restricting expansion of the flexible covering near the cuff, said stiffening member disposed inside the cuff when the cuff is being smoothed.

Forse discloses a pressing buck for pressing or ironing certain portions of a shirt. The pressing buck includes a cuff buck (F), or air bag, made from an expansible fabric cover and supported by an air pipe 96. Forse does not disclose a stiffening member as recited in Claim 1. Rather, Forse discloses a single expandable bag that expands at all points of the bag, including near the cuff of the shirt.

In the pressing buck of Forse, the cuff retaining clip and the flexible resilient clip hold the shirt in place on the bag, but these elements do not restrict expansion of the bag. Furthermore, these elements are positioned on the outside of the shirt, not the inside of the shirt. Forse also includes an expansible sleeve like member 605 positioned near the cuff of the shirt. However, this sleeve member 605 does not perform any limitation on

the expandable bag (F) and only provides a barrier to prevent starch from the shirt from clogging the pores of the bag (F).

For these and other reasons, Forse does not anticipate Claim 1, and withdrawal of the corresponding rejection is respectfully requested. Claims 2-6, 9-11 and 23-26 depend from Claim 1 and should be allowed for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

Claim 12 recites a device for pressing articles of clothing having a sleeve and a cuff, comprising: a shirt-shaped inflatable body having: a flexible covering for receiving a shirt-shaped piece of clothing thereon; and at least one arm portion with an end for receiving the sleeve and cuff; and at least one stiffening member connected to said flexible covering adjacent said end and restricting expansion of the flexible covering near the cuff, said stiffening member disposed inside the cuff when at least one of the sleeve and the cuff is being smoothed.

As described above in relation to Claim 1, Forse does not disclose a stiffening member as recited in Claim 12. The remarks presented above regarding the stiffening member in relation to Claim 1 are also applicable to Claim 12, which also recites a stiffening member.

In addition, Forse does not disclose a shirt shaped inflatable body having an arm portion. Rather, Forse only discloses a smaller inflatable bag that is inserted into a shirt sleeve through the cuff of the shirt. As shown in Fig. 1 of Forse, the inflatable bag is not shirt shaped and only extends to the elbow portion of the shirt sleeve.

For these and other reasons, Forse does not anticipate Claim 12, and withdrawal of the corresponding rejection is respectfully requested. Claims 13-17 and 20-22 depend from Claim 12 and should be allowed for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

New Claim 27 recites a device for smoothing articles of clothing having a sleeve and a cuff, comprising: a shirt-shaped inflatable body having a flexible covering and at least one arm portion with an end, the arm portion including: a first portion being expandable to engage the sleeve when the clothing is being smoothed; and a second portion being less expandable than the first portion, the second portion being disposed inside the cuff when the clothing is being smoothed.

The prior art of record, and Forse in particular, does not disclose, teach or suggest a device for smoothing articles of clothing including a first portion being expandable to engage the sleeve when the clothing is being smoothed, and a second portion being less expandable than the first portion, the second portion being disposed inside the cuff when the clothing is being smoothed, as recited in new Claim 27. Therefore, entry and allowance of new Claim 27 is respectfully requested. New Claims 28-33 depend from new Claim 27 and are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claim 1-33 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. Please note that Applicants have changed representation and are now represented by new counsel. The formal Revocation of Power of Attorney / New Power of Attorney and Change of Correspondence Address documents will be forthcoming.

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Name of Attorney Signing under 37 CFR 1.34

Respectfully submitted,



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February 11, 2005

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